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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. #

COUNTRY Middle East

DATE DISTR. 4 August 1949

SUBJECT Transmittal of Literature

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Reviews of the Local Arabic Press, Beirut, Lebanon.

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AMERICAN LITERATURE, BEIRUT

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July 11, 1949

Review of the Local Arabic Press
appearing on July 10, 1949.

BEIRUT

publishes the following long editorial titled TO THE
CHALLENGES as a rejoinder to AL-'ANAL'S attack against
the American University of Beirut:

"We have often stated that the American University
in Beirut is a center full of intrigues against
Lebanon and its existence. Most of the Lebanese
who have gone astray have done so in its lap.
All the agitators against us ~~from~~ our neighboring
countries have been imbued with hate against
Lebanon and with methods of action against Lebanon
under its wings. Antun Sa'ada's movement would not
have grown so strong if it had not found a fertile
soil in the Lebanese and non-Lebanese students of
the American University.

"How long shall this neglect continue?

"The calamity through which the country has passed
must not be repeated, even if this should necessitate
the arrest of all the evil refugees and the closing
of the American University - AL-'ANAL "

"The above passages are from the editorial of our
contemporary AL-'ANAL No. 1015, dated July 9, 1949.
We place it before the eyes of our readers and before
the eyes of our esteemed friend Sheikh Pierre al-Jumayyel,
the Supreme Chief of the Lebanese Phalanges who 'supervises
its policy' according to the red inscription at the top
of its front page and under the name AL-'ANAL, so that
our readers and our friend Sheikh Pierre may see what
a disgraceful accusation the Phalanges mouthpiece has
levelled against a highly esteemed and deeply founded
cultural institution. This institution has, from the
time of its establishment until now, been spreading
knowledge and learning in Lebanon and the Eastern world.
It has borne the standard of lofty human ideals for
eighty three years and has vigilantly reared Arab
youths just as a mother who cares for her suckling
babe. It has been imbuing the hearts of its sons with
sublime teachings, namely, their first duty is that
the strong must aid the weak, the big must be merciful
to the small, the lettered must teach the unlettered
amongst them. It has been teaching them to spread
the banner of knowledge in the various parts of this
East because it desires that the sons of the East, amongst ^{them}
the Arabic speaking, should be happy, should love their
homelands, should exchange confidence with one another, and
should do good in the service of God and in the service
of humanity.

"This venerable institution - which has done us much
good, which has vowed to polish and train our bodies,
minds and spirits, and which has produced for the Arab
East men who are the pride of the Arabs and the

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Westerners - is being asked by the men of the Phalanges organization to close its doors because it is in their view

"a center full of intrigues against Lebanon and its existence. In its lap have gone astray all the agitators against Lebanon ~~xxxxx~~ from the neighboring countries who have been imbued with hate and with methods of endeavor against Lebanon under its wings. Antun Sa'ada's movement would not have grown so strong if it had not found a fertile soil in the Lebanese and non-Lebanese students of the University (sic word for word)"

"There are sweeping utterances which the sons of the University are not accustomed to make recklessly. Where is the scientific method of thinking? Where are the evidence and the analysis? Where are the research and the foresight? Where are the systems of test and investigation which are born of observation? Where are your eyes and minds, O men of the Phalanges?

"Knowledge is easy but application is difficult. People do not much differ in understanding the law but they differ greatly in its application. What is the matter with the Phalanges - most of whom are men of knowledge - who are talking at random?

"They are writing what their doubts, fancies and unscientific minds are dictating to them and what their single-track policy is imposing on them. We would never do this, as our mother University has taught us to seek honesty in the product of the mind only....

"Are we, the University youths, misled while you are rightly guided, because a man like leader Antun Sa'ada adopted a certain principle? We condemned this principle before the Phalanges. We fought it before they did. But no one can deny that however hollow its foundations might be, this principle brought Christians and Moslems together and melted down the sectarianism from which we all complain, including the Phalanges - the Phalanges who have not in actuality succeeded in this, or in something of this. Despite the efforts of twelve years, the Phalanges have continued to be with one color, with one character. Are nations built on 'one' element of compatriots to live with many other elements?

"Then tell us, O men of the Phalanges, and O my friend the Supreme Chief, who are the Lebanese of whom you could pride yourselves if you were not proud of men like Garruf, Nimr, Abicarim, Ghomet, Zaidan, Thabit, Shumayyil, Baroudi, Ephtimus, the Maqdasis, the Hittis, Jardaq, Durban, 'Usairan, Taqiddin, Malik, Abu Lama', Zaididdin, Salim, Sabah, Khawli and Bihan? And the countless and endless procession of leaders of thought who were reared and grew in the lap of the American University and bore the torch of its noble teachings across Lebanon, the Arab countries and the world and which lighted Lebanon, the Arab countries and the world?

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"O my friends the men of the Phalanges! Do you want to close this institution which has brought up these men, to whom we bow our head as we mention their names?"

"What would be left of Lebanon if your demand were answered and if the American University were closed?"

"What do you say if we asked the Government to do away with the Phalanges organization because the Phalanges ~~would~~ want to close the stronghold of free thought and wisdom - the American University - and if we recklessly accused you with the same accusations you are levelling against the American University, its sons and its graduates?"

"Far be it from us to do so because we believe in liberty and because we have grown up in the stronghold of liberty, in the American University."

"Return to your senses, use your minds and always follow the scientific method of thought and argument. Avoid foolish sentiments and apologize for what you have said about the University if you really serve Lebanon. The American University has served Lebanon and the East and you shall not transgress against it, whatever you do or claim."

"With regard to our refugee brethren whom you have falsely accused, they have God who will protect them and they have brothers who will not abandon them for all time!"

This paper reports in its round-up of the local political scene, from which the Censor has deleted about thirty lines, that "Nihad as-Solh believes that certain newspaper comments have exceeded the law. He has therefore ordered that Ghassan Twainy of AN-NAHAR be investigated."

AL-HAYAT

The Censor has deleted the entire editorial of this paper. He has also deleted the paper's report on the law in eight different places.

AN-NAHAR

Camille Shamun has been contributing articles to this paper once every week under the tittle: CAMILLE SHAMUN WRITER IN AN-NAHAR - THE POLITICAL TOPICS OF THE WEEK. In this week's article, Camille Shamun discusses the estivage season which he says is almost dead because of the government's unwise planning and policy; the general Lebano-Syrian relations which he argues are not as good as they should be and are not as good as they were before; and Lebanon's relations with the Western powers. This part of the article will be

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AL-'AMAL

writes that its quarrel with Antun Sa'ada, who worked against Lebanon, has ended with his execution "although there was nothing between this man and ourselves except this difference on a principle and a doctrine." The paper then dwells on the members of the Qawmi Party and says that many of them joined the party unconsciously of its real designs. It therefore asks these youths to return to the fold of Lebanon and to ~~repent~~ repeat their former deeds and thoughts. It also calls upon the Government to exercise justice in dealing with these youths and to "restore confidence in the hearts of the people that Lebanon is being ruled in the name of democracy and not by force and coercion."

The Censor has deleted two articles from this paper dealing with the Qawmi Party question.

SAYF AL-AHRAR

Rushdi Ma'luf, who writes daily in this paper, addresses an open letter to the Chief Editor of AL-'AMAL in which he objects to that paper's editorial which called the American University "a center of intrigues against Lebanon." Ma'luf says that the Chief Editor of AL-'AMAL is one of his close friends but he tells him "You were not successful in expressing the facts of which, I do not doubt, you were quite convinced..." Ma'luf then wishes if AL-'AMAL's Chief Editor had consulted him, or Dr. Charles Malik, or others, before writing his article against the American University which has, for the last eighty years, been producing doctors, engineers, chemists, nurses, social scientists, economists, ~~journalists~~ journalists and bearers of the torch of liberty. Ma'luf then adds in part:

"We have passed through the American University as students and as professors and we have not found in its spirit, in its teachings, or in its directives to its professors, anything that might be called intrigues against Lebanon or against any existence! But there is an atmosphere of liberty which pervades the University and we hope it would pervade the country!.....Lebanon is Lebanon because it has cultural institutions like the American University, St. Joseph's University, the Freres Academy, et cetera.....I am not now in a position to mention those who have graduated from the American University during the past eighty years, those who have served Lebanon and served humanity in Lebanon in conjunction with the graduates of the other institutions. I say I am not in a position to enumerate them, lest this might be regarded as intrigue between you and them, most of whom are your friends. But in view of my friendship with you, I say on your behalf that when you read what you had written in the ~~editorial~~ in which you wrote it, your surprise at it was not less than our own surprise."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

July 12, 1949

Review of the Local Arabic Press
appearing on July 12, 1949.AL-HAYAT

carries the following editorial on the American University of Beirut:

"Our contemporary BEIRUT published in its Sunday issue an editorial rejoinding an article appearing in our contemporary AL-'AKHBA in which the writer demanded that the American University be closed because - he claimed - it does not inculcate sound Lebanese thinking in its students. An-Nasuli has adequately handled the subject by the tangible proofs and facts he propounded to the upholders of that view. But we very much doubt their ability to understand his language.

"This anti-American University campaign was not born today. They started it several months ago when they severely attacked its programs and Constantine Juraig who was then its Vice-President. All of this took place in the name of culture, education and freedom and.....the poor nation!

"He who demands the closing of the American University demands, impliedly, the closing of hundreds of schools and colleges in Lebanon. He will demand to close the Umaniya, Maqasid, Amiliya, Aley, Shwaifat, Suq al-Tharb, Sidon, Tripoli, Brumana and ~~other~~ countless colleges which constitute the educational institutions of the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people, where Lebanese thought is liberated from foreign poison, from hidden fanaticism and from national fanaticism.

"Many of those who claim that they represent Lebanese thought think with the mentality of a limited section of the Province of Mount Lebanon for instance, and not with the mentality of the Lebanese state which is surrounded by other states along its various frontiers and which is not an island in Waq Waq (a fictitious country - translator).

"At any rate, we are not surprised at the repetition of these cries. We are not afraid of them. But we regret that the unique privileges this group is enjoying - thanks to the independent regime - have not opened its mind to the realities of the twentieth century!"

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BEIRUT

The Censor has deleted more than ten lines from this paper's editorial which complains of press censorship in Lebanon. In emphasizing that Lebanon sanctifies freedom of thought, the paper declares in part:

"We do not know if the government is acting wisely by imposing this military censorship on what we are writing. We live in an independent era about which we are as keen as the Government, if not more. We live in a country that believes in democracy...and in the four freedoms for which much blood and many souls have been sacrificed. Moreover, we have a new Press Law which inflicts severe punishment on newsmen who violate the freedom of thought. Why don't you leave the newsmen alone and allow them liberty of writing, so that when one of them deviates from the straight path, you would mete out the necessary punishment to him?"

"We live in an interval during which the press must enjoy complete liberty in order to guide your steps toward universal good and to lead Lebanese public opinion toward the direction acceptable to the national consciousness. Do you want to smash our pens, the last thing left us, after you have destroyed with your own hands the mirror which reflects the will of the Lebanese people, we mean Parliament, from the time you falsified the last elections and distorted the people's hopes?"

"Any government that can not tolerate criticism of writers and the criticism of loyal deputies who fully represent the people, despite everything, is a government which is not worthy to rule and to live."

AL-'ANAL

In stressing the struggle the Lebanese people have made throughout the centuries for their independence, this paper writes in part:

"If we consider Lebanon's independence, we find that its relative independence is more complete than the independence of other near and distant powers.

"If we know this fact, it becomes possible for us to speak frankly in these circumstances to those who made Lebanon's existence a subject of controversy in the past.

"All the Lebanese, regardless of their past leanings, have accepted Lebanon as an independent and sovereign state. It is in the welfare of all that this accord and acceptance should continue.

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"All those who feel purely Arab feelings must endeavor to safeguard Lebanon because Lebanon's existence as an independent state is useful for them.

"All those who feel purely Syrian feelings must support with all their might the existence of Lebanon because its continued existence is in the interests of Syria and its continued existence.

"All those who want Lebanon to be Christian must help the existence of Lebanon as it is today and with its present boundaries.

"All have interests in the existence of Lebanon as a center of intellectual and progressive radiation; as a stronghold of liberty in all this East; and as an example of democracy, brotherhood, equality and respect for human personality.

"It is in the interest of each country in the East, particularly of the Arab countries, that Lebanon should remain independent for itself. Because if it remains independent for itself, it will remain independent for them."

AN-NAHAR

writes in its editorial that the Military Court has accused Ghassan Twaini, its Chief Editor, of having scorned the Lebanese flag and army in an editorial dealing with the execution of Antun Sa'ada. The accusation falls under article 108 of the Military Penal Code which provides severe punishments, in case of civilians, ranging from six months to two years. The paper also says that Walid Twaini, will be tried in absentia under the same charge. The paper then proceeds to say that it has not, from the time the Military authorities started to handle the Qawmi Party issue, held the flag or the army in contempt. However, it says that it is probable that the Chief Editor's article in which he described the people's wonder and surprise at the speedy execution of Antun Sa'ada, has been misunderstood. The paper argues that if there was any criticism in the article in question, such criticism was directed against the civilian and not to the military authorities "whose task was restricted to examining the case in the light of the accusations" which were made by the government itself.

AL-NADAF

criticizes in its editorial Kamal Jumblat who has interpolated the government regarding Antun Sa'ada's execution, as well as other "voices that are being raised in specific quarters censuring the authorities for their hasty execution of Antun Sa'ada...."

In this connection, the paper describes ~~xxx~~ how dangerous Sa'ada's movement has been to Lebanon and how much blood would have been shed if the government had not taken swift and decisive measures to quell

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the insurgence. The paper then tells those who are "lamenting the loss of liberty in Lebanon"

".....your present attitude is revealing your real nature and is indicating that you have been created to destroy and to run after cheap aims.....The government has done what any government in the world would have done in the circumstances. It will be better for you to know that the country is with the government and that it is now more satisfied with the government than at any other time, regardless of its regret about Antun Sa'ada and Antun Sa'ada's Party. We permit ourselves to say that Lebanon should be glad that its government is headed by a man like Riadh as-Solh, in an hour when the country is in the hand of fate!"

In reporting the government's efforts to arrest George Abdulmasih, a leading member of the Qawmi Party, this paper says in part:

"We understand that George Abdulmasih might be in Beirut itself. It is also reported that it is very probable that he is taking refuge in the house of one of the Qawmis working with one of the foreign legations."

ASH-SHARQ

has the following to say regarding AL-'ARABIA's attack on the American University of Beirut:

"Lebanese public opinion was taken unawares, two days ago, by the lightning frontal attack the French cultural influence waged against the Anglo-Saxon ~~influence~~ cultural influence. This developed in a severe and open drive whose objective was the American University of Beirut. It demanded that the University close its doors because - according to the drive and its organizers - the University is a center of corruption, aberration, confusion and so forth.

"The observers, who closely watch the hidden struggle between the French and the Anglo-Saxons for imperialistic influence in Lebanon and Syria, feel that this struggle has been intensified recently, so much so that it is now extending to the cultural field, alongside the other political and economic fields; and that French consolidation is openly making ready to pounce on the greatest Anglo-Saxon University in the Arab East.

"It has also been noted that this readiness has followed the 'operations' of smashing the Qawmi Party most of whose leaders and members are graduates of the American University, as the French drive openly claims!

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"These observers definitely say that France is determined to hold fast to its traditional claims, namely, it alone holds the special cultural position in Lebanon and Syria, in addition to the political and economic positions.

"Briefly:

"France wants that no one should compete with it in monopolizing the minds of the Lebanese and Syrian youths. It also wants to monopolize the political and economic resources of the two countries without competition."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

July 14, 1949

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on July 13, 1949.

BEIRUT

warmly welcomes the Lebano-Syrian economic agreement and regards it, "despite the disagreements of the industrialists, merchants and agriculturalists," as a good step toward stronger co-operation between the two countries. After praising the officials of both countries who negotiated the agreement, the paper hopes that the Economy Ministers of the other Arab countries would follow the examples of their Lebanese and Syrian counterparts so that

"the Arab world will become a single economic unit pulsating with life and standing as a formidable barrier against the economic infiltration of Israel. We will thus succeed in strangling it economically at least after having failed to exterminate it militarily."

AL-HAYAT

wonders what it is the object of the "covert campaign against the Palestinian refugees.....among whom, they say, are thieves, charlatans and armed men." The editorial then comments:

"It is only natural that the 140,000 refugees can not be pure angels. It is probable that the proportion of the offenders among the refugees is much lower than that among the Lebanese themselves....

"We must realize that we bear an inescapable responsibility toward the Palestinian refugees. They are our brothers. They are our neighbors. They are our victims. They are - above all this - human beings like ourselves. If one thousand thieves and crippled and greedy men are found amongst them, this number is insignificant in relation to a people who have lost all their belongings and who have lost what is more valuable than all possessions: the land of their fathers and forefathers.

"But if the anti-refugee campaign arises from political motives, if it is inspired by imaginary whims, ambitions, fanaticism and other considerations, it would be a great mistake to raise it, because it would, in the end, boomerang against the Lebanese themselves and would create amongst them what we do not like.

"O people, a country like Lebanon can not be driven by fickleness and rashness. Its existing conditions are very delicate. Why do you purposely beat the sensitive strings uselessly? Why this retrogression in political thinking after the independence pact settlement which has been fully successful?"

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AL-'AMAL

writes in its editorial that Lebanon is a stronghold of liberty where people of various religions and beliefs live in peace and harmony; points out how Lebanon has been recognized by the United Nations and by the Arab states as an independent and sovereign country; and takes this occasion to answer, indirectly, the criticism which has been levelled against its recent article about the American University of Beirut. It continues:

"We wish to tell all that the existence of this Lebanese reality is essential, because it emanates from the Lebanese will. Moreover, it is a reality pregnant with benefits. It is a living example of human harmony and brotherhood for all this East. It is a safe haven for the oppressed and for liberties. Lebanon in this East is the homeland of every Easterner and every Arab after their own homelands. It is their spiritual homeland. We hope that it will be worthy of being regarded as a second homeland by every person.

"But if we want this, we must work according to what we want. We must impress our youths with this noble spirit. Could we have such a thing if there were in Lebanon schools working against it? There are in Lebanon schools that overlook, under the guise of freedom of thought, teachings and propaganda that do not serve Lebanon.

"These institutions argue that they have given Lebanon great Lebanese and great savants. We do not deny that these have produced sincere Lebanese. But we observe that these sincere Lebanese are sincere because of thoughtfulness and home education and that not every person can, after having grown up, resist an education on which he was reared. What is desired is a reversal of the situation. It is desired that these schools offer a purely Lebanese national education, so that the loyal should not be a minority among their graduates. With regard to the great savants produced by these schools, we respect and appreciate their knowledge but we prefer that they be Lebanese savants rather than savants only, or savants antagonistic to Lebanon.

"We must protect Lebanon not because it is our homeland, but because it is a human homeland and because this East is in need of such a homeland among its other homelands."

TELEGRAPH

states in connection with "Amal Jumblat's interpolation to the government re Antun Sa'ada's case that

"The national circles are not hiding their astonishment and dissatisfaction with the stand of Deputy Amal Jumblat who has been a theoretician of socialism. It is said that Jumblat was invited several years ago to attend a display

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by the Qawmi Party group. He refused to attend on the grounds that it was a Party which worked against Lebanon and its independence. He later endeavored to reconcile his socialism with Ba'ada's totalitarianism but did not succeed because opposites meet only in contradictory and unusual circumstances..."

This paper asks the Government to release the imprisoned members of the Qawmi Party "after the execution of their leader who was everything in the Party." It says that 95 percent of them are not responsible and have nothing to do with the Party's policy.

AL-HADAF

feels that the "calamity" of the Qawmi Party and the upheaval which almost "led Lebanon to a dark fate" have opened the eyes of a group of the Lebanese people to the political reality of Lebanon in relation to ideas and beliefs. That calamity, the paper adds, has awakened the minds of the people to the fact that "this entity can not live if the settlement out of which this era and independence have arisen is not taken into consideration." The paper then quotes the following excerpts from AL-'AMAL'S editorial of yesterday:

"All the Lebanese, regardless of their past leanings have accepted Lebanon as an independent and sovereign state. It is in the welfare of all that this accord and acceptance should continue. All those who feel purely Arab feelings must endeavor to safeguard Lebanon because Lebanon's existence as an independent state is useful for them. All those who feel purely Syrian feelings must support with all their might the existence of Lebanon because its continued existence is in the interests of Syria and its continued existence."

The paper then regards AL-'AMAL'S statement as an invitation which "we have always extended to others. We have often told our brethren in this country that this policy has become our constitution by the inspiration of which we work with truth and sincerity, after it has been confirmed to us that Arab interests themselves demand the protection of Lebanon's independence. We can understand, following al-'AMAL'S invitation which represents the viewpoint of a large group of Lebanese who did not think, like ourselves, before the calamity of the Qawmi Party, that we meet on one plane of action to keep Lebanon as an independent state in the interests of the Arabs and of those who uphold Arabism, and in the interests of Lebanon and those who uphold the idea of Lebanon sans Arabism; and that these two ideas may march side by side without affecting the independence and existence of Lebanon so long as this existence serves Arabism and Lebanon at the same time."

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This paper understands that the Government has decided to dissolve the Ikhwan al-Muslimin (Moslem Brotherhood) organization in Lebanon after it has been split into two parts and after it has violated the law by having its members wear special uniforms and organizing them into semi-military groups which appear in public places."

AL-YAQM

dwells in its editorial on the case of the civil servants who are members of the Qawmi Party and who are now awaiting, in the prisons, their trial by the Government's Disciplinary Board. The paper argues that there are many employees who belong to other political parties and who must, therefore, be referred to the Disciplinary Board, if the Qawmis were to be tried because of their membership in that Party.

AR-RUMIAD

hopes that the conclusion of the Lebano-Syrian economic agreement will lead to greater understanding between the two countries and will be a step toward the desired co-operation and unity between all the Arab states.

AD-DIYAR

In writing about the necessity of sound party direction in Lebanon and in regretting that Antun Sa'ada "who succeeded in overcoming personal enmities and sectarian dissensions" indulged in revolutionary ideas instead of his continuing his campaign against religious fanaticism and its resultant misunderstandings, the paper states in part:

"The novel Qawmi Suri direction has urged the Arab nationalists to group themselves. The Nida' al-Qawmi is one of these groups. This is a relatively new political party which depends upon a sound Arab national doctrine as basis for organized political action. It brings together on one national level selected groups of educated youths for the purpose leading the country toward the realization of its high aims. If Antun Sa'ada had lived to continue his work intellectually, an intellectual war would have arisen between him and An-Nida al-Qawmi from which the country would have benefitted. But the law elected to punish the Qawmi leader in order to save the country from trouble and anarchy. However, the door has remained open to the remaining members of the Party to resume their intellectual and political activities to help the political blocs to get out of the abyss of sectarianism and personal enmities. It is our hope that An-Nida' al-Qawmi will work actively to bridge the gap existing in our party life..."

AMERICAN LEGATION, BEIRUT

July 15, 1949

Review of the Local Arabic Press
Appearing on July 15, 1949.BEIRUT

reviews Lu'ad Amun's statement to the press on the Palestine question and on Lebanon's efforts in this respect and reaches the conclusion:

"We are extremely pessimistic and our only future weapon is strong unity in the Arab world. Will the Arab capitals and Arab responsible leaders hear this sincere call. Despite our weakness, we are able, if we unite and if we are sincere to one another to save Palestine, the whole of Palestine."

This paper understands from "a reliable source that as a result of the Qawmi Party incidents, the Ministry of Interior has studied the condition of the rest of the licensed parties and organizations in Lebanon. It was first thought to dissolve these parties and organizations, but this idea met with obstacles, chief among which is that the government could not find any justification for their dissolution. The Ministry of Interior has therefore addressed notes to the various organizations advising them of the necessity of operating as political parties and not as sports or other organizations. The leaders of the Phalanges Organization have met and decided to change the organization into a political party. This means that the use of uniforms will be discontinued in all the organizations and that changes may be introduced into their internal regulations. All the other organizations will follow the example of the Phalanges. One of our representatives adds that the Phalanges organization has decided, contrary to reports, to form a political party whose principles and directions will be in accordance with those adopted by other parties in the world, side by side with the organization. (Translator's note: AN-NAHAR publishes the following report which bears on the above article:

"The press has recently reported that the Syrian President has advised the Lebanese authorities to dissolve organizations in Lebanon."

BEIRUT writes the following regarding Pierre Jumayyel and the American University of Beirut:

"Pierre Jumayyel, the Supreme Chief of the Phalanges, telephoned us yesterday forenoon and expressed his gracious sentiments toward the American University. He said he was surprised that AL-'ANAH's articles, which he supervises, should be interpreted in this way and added that the Phalanges were not barbarians to demand to close the American University. They wanted to warn the responsible authorities of the danger of the students' interference in politics which might harm Lebanon."

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"We mentioned to our esteemed friend, Sheikh Pierre Jumayyel to visit Dr. Penrose, the President of the American University, and to express to him the true sentiments of the ~~Lebanese~~ toward the great educational institution which has rendered unforgettable services to Lebanon and to the East. We also mentioned to him to visit Sheikh Sa'id Taqiddin, the President of the University Alumni and to express to him his regret for the manner in which AL-'ARAB's articles have been interpreted. Sheikh Pierre Jumayyel promised to undertake these two visits.

"While we are happy with the statement of the Supreme Chief of the Phalanges and with his promise to visit Presidents Penrose and Sheikh Taqiddin, we are sure that he will fulfil his promise because of his fine disposition. We are awaiting the results of these two visits."

AL-HAYATIS

Special Correspondent discusses the results of the Anglo-French negotiations on the Arab East, particularly on Syria and Lebanon. Stating that the reasons for the negotiations are due to the Anglo-French rivalry in this part of the world, the Correspondent comments in part:

"Britain's principal concern was to prevent the French from using their influence in Syria to affect the existing conditions in Lebanon, Transjordan and Iraq, particularly in Lebanon. It has obtained guarantees in this respect. The French have promised to respect the status quo in Lebanon and to refrain from interfering, directly or indirectly, with a view to changing or reversing that status quo. In lieu of this, the French have asked the British to respect the status quo in Syria and to refrain from making any effort, whether directly or through Iraq and Transjordan, to change it by force. The British have complied with this request."

However, the Correspondent expresses skepticism about the workability of this agreement because he writes:

"Events have taught us to regard understanding between the British and the French as impossible. For this reason, political circles look at this new understanding with suspicion, and believe that each side will impliedly follow its way, as usual."

With regards to America's stand on all these developments, the Correspondent writes:

"We understand that the American appropriate authorities have lately advised the Lebanese authorities that the United States supports Lebanon's independence and entity on the basis of the status quo; and that it is ready to offer every assistance that the Lebanese Government may ask."

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AN-NAHAR

devotes the whole of its first and half of its fourth pages to the trial of Ghassan Twaini and Walid Twaini, Chief Editor and Director of this paper respectively. The Military Court sentenced Ghassan Twaini to three months' imprisonment and acquitted Walid Twaini. After his sentence was read out, Ghassan Twaini made the following statement which is published as an editorial:

"I told the Court that I wrote my editorial with full consciousness and responsibility and that I was ready to bear the consequences. I am accused of having published an article which is regarded as prejudicial to the honor, name and morale of the Army, while the article did not refer to the army or to its operations. The accusation also states that article constitutes a comment on the trial of Antun Sa'ada by the Military Court and thus the comment is prejudicial to the Army.

"I said during my interrogation and trial that I respect and sanctify the army and that my criticism was directed to the administrative measures of the Government that preceded and followed the trial, such as the speedy execution of the sentence. If anything is found in the article smelling of criticism of the trial, that was because it dealt with symbolic matters which had nothing to do with the substance.

"At any rate, a large section of the Lebanese people has regarded my article as expressing its views and feelings.....The sentence has come as a testimony of the courageous press which fears nothing and which defends beliefs and liberties. I am proud of this sentence. There is no bitterness in my soul because I am young and the future is for the youths and not for those who want to terrorise the free."

AL-SAMAL

carries the following editorial titled OUR WATER IS ~~DIRTY~~ in connection with the American University of Beirut:

"Those who fish in troubled water

"Those who distort good intentions

"Those who say what others have not said or even crossed their minds

"Those who instal the scales of judgment

"We do not care for them because of their implied intrigues and hidden purposes.

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"We promised ourselves not to open the door of argument regarding what we have written and regarding their falsification of our views on and attitude toward the American University of Beirut.

"But the comments that are being made abroad, particularly in THE NEW YORK TIMES, AL-IHRAM and AL-HUDA on the distorted or mutilated reports of what AL-'ANBAL has written, compel us to put the dots where they belong in order to clarify the situation and to serve truth.

"Our hearts harbor all the sanctify of knowledge and thought toward the American University.

"We are not - we who place the values of thought and knowledge in the crown of Lebanese glory - among those who deny the white hands of the University, which have provided Lebanon and the other Eastern countries with men of science, of art and of understanding, men who have rendered great services to their homelands.

"We are not among those who ignore what deep cultural and civilizing effect the University has had by holding the torch of light for more than eighty years.

"Lebanon, which has built the edifice of its pride on letters, books and radiance of schools does not permit itself to belittle the value of the school, the book and the letter.

"We, the Phalanges, the soldiers of the Lebanese mission, are in the vanguard of those who appreciate the educational work of the University as well as the extent of its participation in raising the name of Lebanon and spreading its radiance.

"The falsifiers, the slanderers and the fishers in troubled water can not misrepresent our truth as our truth derives from the substance of Lebanon's knowledge and humanity.

"We have proclaimed and called attention to the faults we have found with the University and other foreign institutions.

"Of these, is the development in those institutions, from time to time, of movements and propaganda which are not in Lebanon's service, if we do not say that they aim at bringing great harm to Lebanon, its youths and its ~~XXXX~~ fate.

"Of these, is the neglect by the faculties of those institutions of these movements and propaganda in a manner which could be understood as mere implied encouragement than mere indication of releasing personal liberty in belief and behavior.

"Of these, is the teaching of history and geography books which do not mention Lebanon as a nation enjoying all the attributes of sovereignty and independence.

"Of these, is the disavowal by some teachers and educators of Lebanon in a manner fraught with much impertinence....

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"Of these, and this is most important, is the absence of a sound Lebanese direction. This direction should be given preference over all other directions.

"Whatever the answer of the authorities of these institutions may be, and whatever claims about liberty and so forth they may make, we, in our capacity as Lebanese, wish to see Lebanon occupying in those institutions the position due to it as a necessity, as a duty and as a recognition of the favor of hospitality.

"The Lebanese who demand to close schools

"The Lebanese who isolate and hide themselves behind walls of darkness and ignorance

"The Lebanese who are against freedom and expansion in the world of progress, advancement and evolution

"The Lebanese who burn books or disrespect knowledge

"Such Lebanese are not worthy to belong to Lebanon. They do not merit enjoying 'Lebanism.'

"We will never be among those who demand to close schools, even if it should be a school run under an oak tree in the smallest Lebanese farm.

"This being the case, how can the trouble makers and fishers in troubled water permit themselves to accuse us of demanding to close the American University?

"AL-'AMAL wrote: 'The calamity through which the country is passing must not be renewed even if it should be necessary - and national necessity with us and with others is above all other considerations - to close the University.'

"This statement is of the nature of the Holy Bible's saying 'If your eye offends thee or if your right hand offends thee.....'

"No, we are not among those who demand the closing of schools just for the pleasure of closing or for motives arising out of ignorance, fanaticism or retrogression.

"Let the 'zealots' and those who are raising this hue and cry remember that it is they who accused us of loving the 'foreigners' when we warded off their attacks on foreign institutions; when we defended liberty, letters and intellectual radiance; and when they insisted on doing away with everything foreign, even if it was useful and essential for the country."